

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JAN 17 2007

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A) Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Houston, Samuel D., House

Other name/site number _____

2. Location

Street & number 3524 Anderson Avenue ☐ not for publication

City or town Manhattan ☐ vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Riley Code 161 Zip code 66502

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patricia J. Miller DSHPO
Signature of certifying official/Title
Kansas State Historical Society

12/7/06
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional
Comments.)

Signature of commenting official /Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- ☐ entered in the National Register. _____
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National
Register _____
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register _____
- ☐ removed from the National
Register _____
- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

Houston House
Name of Property

Riley County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
2	1	total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter Categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Government: Post Office

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Limestone

Walls: Limestone

Plaster

Roof: Asphalt

Other: Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Houston House
Name of Property

Riley County, Kansas
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- ☒ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement

Politics/Government

Architecture

Period of Significance

1857-1863

Significant Dates

1857, 1863

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Samuel D. Houston

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Soupine, John

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Houston House
Name of Property

Riley County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property One Acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	4	7	0	5	0	7	0	4	3	4	0	4	5	0
Zone	Easting				Northing										
2															

3															
Zone	Easting				Northing										
4															

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Lauren Hamer, B.A. & Bonnie Lynn-Sherow, PhD
Organization Bluestem Historical Consulting Date March, 2005
Street & number 529 Pierre Telephone 785-565-0086
City or town Manhattan State KS Zip code 66502

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name Dr. Steven and Whitney Short
Street & number 3624 Anderson Ave. Telephone 785-573-3006
City or town Manhattan State KS Zip code 66502

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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Samuel Houston House
Riley Co., Kansas

Summary

The Samuel Houston House, located at 3624 Anderson Avenue in Riley County Kansas, was built in 1857 with plans drawn by John Soupine (stone mason) for use by Samuel Houston and his family. It was built in the national folk style popular at the time, fashioned of native limestone, locally quarried. The original house was a two and a half story, 2600 square foot building with a full basement and a full front porch facing south onto Anderson Avenue. A large addition was completed in 2003 at the rear of the home adjoining the north face of the house. This addition left all contributing features of the house intact, and does not detract from the overall historic façade of the house as it was built in 1857. The addition is sympathetic with the original structure, but is clearly of different materials making it easily distinguished from the original house. The north wall of the Houston residence is now enclosed by the addition, but remains fully visible on the first and second floors.

Façade Features:

The South Façade, faces the street and is dominated by a full porch on the main floor of the residence. There are seven limestone steps from the ground level to the wooden porch landing. A porch with a dropped, flat roof and simple four-sided, tapered piers replaced the thicker-set originals (date of replacement not known). Although the porch, rails, and spindles have been replaced, the existing ones are similar, though not identical, in size and construction. Originally, a wooden balustrade enclosed the roof of the porch but was removed during a reconstruction by previous owners. From the porch floor to ground level the space has been enclosed with wooden lattice similar to the original. The second floor is clearly visible above the dropped roof of the porch. Fenestration, all of which is original throughout the home, on this floor consists of three windows on the second-story, they are equal in size and symmetrically spaced. On the first floor, two large windows flank the central doorway and are vertically aligned with the second floor windows. The front, entrance is marked by two sidelights and an overhead transom. Windows retain dark colored shutters, as seen in the original.

On the East, gable-side of the house, the window arrangement is vertically symmetrical. Second floor windows are far closer together than the first floor creating a triangular effect. The first floor entrance on this side of the house is asymmetrically placed, closer to the northern side, with original limestone steps leading from the ground to the first floor. A small, peaked window on the third floor is centrally placed in the elevation. An original ground floor entrance also exists, with similar stone steps leading downward from the lawn to the recessed entry. This entrance is lined up with the point of the gable roof, directly in

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Samuel Houston House
Riley Co., Kansas

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the center of the façade. This entrance served as a business entrance for the post office originally located in the building. As in the front façade, all of the windows have retained their original stone sills and lintels. The windows, on this as on the other facades, feature a six-over-six arrangement. This pane arrangement deviates from the two over two seen in the original photograph of the house, and may represent a later update to the house previous to the current ownership.

The original Northern façade is hidden by a large addition completed in 2003. The original house had a lean-to kitchen with clapboard exterior. This lean-to room deteriorated significantly during the 20th century, past the point of repair, and was demolished. The new addition is narrower than the width of the original house and includes full-length dropped-roof side porches on all three sides. These porches are sympathetic but not identical to the original southern façade's roof. The addition itself is also gable-roofed with four dormers on the second floor, two facing east and west. The addition features composite clapboard siding, perhaps similar to the original lean-to, but easily distinguished from the original limestone structure. As noted above, the original limestone, North façade of the Houston residence is now visible from the interior of the clapboard addition. Window openings were retained and now serve as shelving units, their original place and purpose is still preserved. The North façade of the house featured a centrally placed entrance that now serves as the transition between original house and addition.

The West, gable-end façade of the original stone structure features five windows in a symmetrical arrangement, with second and first floor windows vertically aligned and a small peaked attic window is centered in the elevation. The grounds of the Samuel Houston House, while greatly diminished in size from the original plot, have retained several character defining features. The most obvious feature of the original property is a wrought-iron fence set into a limestone base enclosing the yard on both the street side and East side of the house. Lawrence Houston's biographical account of his father verifies that this was original to the construction of the house. Storm cellar doors leading from ground level to basement are centrally located in this elevation, making it precisely opposite of the original post-office entrance on the East façade. A non-contributing garage built of limestone with a pitched roof is offset approximately 20 meters from the East façade of the house closer to Anderson Avenue. This three car garage has been placed far enough away as not detract from the prominent features and composition of the original south façade and porch.

To the west of the house there is a two-story modern garage and guesthouse. The building is a non-contributing two-story structure of intersecting gable wings. The front façade faces the south and has three garage door openings along the first floor. The second story extends

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Samuel Houston House
Riley Co., Kansas

over the garage, and through the intersecting gable to the north. The second floor is utilized as a small guesthouse; there is an exterior door on the east side of the guesthouse that faces the main house. The garage and guesthouse are non-historic structures and are thus non-contributing to the property.

Although now incomplete, portions of a historic stone wall are still visible on the property. The wall currently extends from the front corner of the garage and runs south along the driveway before it turns and runs east parallel to the front of the house and the road. The wall is limestone block, with a cap made of limestone slabs aligned end to end on the block wall. The wall is considered a contributing structure.

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Samuel Houston House
Riley Co., Kansas

Summary

The Samuel Houston House (c. 1857) at 3524 Anderson Avenue is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, and C.

Criterion A

Under Criterion A, associations with important contributions to the history of the community, state or nation, the Samuel Dexter Houston house is representative of the founding of Manhattan, Kansas during its territorial period leading up to the Civil War and beyond. During Territorial Period (1854-1861) Kansas ceased to be the property of its Native American inhabitants, the Kansa and Osage tribes. Through the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska act, Kansas was opened for Euro-American settlement. The Public Land Act of Kansas, July 1854, allowed squatters to settle on the yet un-surveyed land and immigration to the territory of Kansas increased with the completion of a wagon road from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Riley in 1855. The period commonly referred to as "Bleeding Kansas" began with the establishment of popular sovereignty to determine the legality of slavery. Once Kansas' population reached a certain point its existence as a free or slave state could be determined in a referendum by its inhabitants. This tenuous situation made the populating of Kansas a political enterprise and many settlers in this period, on both sides of the argument, were actively involved in the struggle. Abolitionists established the town of Lawrence, Manhattan, and Topeka in this period, while nearby Missourians largely formed pro-slavery settlements in the adjacent territory. Samuel Houston was among those who immigrated to Kansas in order to prevent the spread of slavery, and his house is representative of this Abolitionist influx during the period. Moreover, this home witnesses the commitment of Sam Houston to settling permanently in the newly opened territory, by virtue of its size and materials; it is a solid and permanent structure.

Criterion B

Samuel Dexter Houston was influential in the course of Kansas history, both academically and politically, beginning in 1853 when he immigrated from Iowa with his wife and family to the banks of the Big Blue River in present day Manhattan, Kansas. Houston contributed not only to the founding of Manhattan, he located his stone house at the base of the still present "Blue Mound", but he also fulfilled several official political functions as a member of the State Legislature and State Senate where he helped establish the modern boundaries of Kansas, write the State Constitution and maintained contact with President Lincoln during

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Samuel Houston House
Riley Co., Kansas

the Civil War. At the time of Houston's arrival in Kansas it was still a territory, with the city of Manhattan not yet in official existence. According to the memoirs of Houston's son, Lawrence Nile Houston, Samuel was one of the first white settlers in the area. Joined in the summer of 1854 by more settlers from Massachusetts, Houston staked off the town of Manhattan and that fall, along with Judge Sanders W. Johnson, Judge J.M. Russell, E.M. Thurston, and A.H. Wilcox located a town site along the river and named it Canton. Other local settlements in the area including Boston, settled by abolitionists, and a Cincinnati Land Company Colony were incorporated within the fledgling settlement of Canton to form Manhattan. Houston was involved in the planning of the new city, and today one of its east-west streets was named in his honor.

Politically, Houston was active at local, state, and national levels. In 1855 Houston was the only free state representative in the Pawnee Territorial legislature in the midst of the Bleeding Kansas debates, and in 1859 he was a member of the Wyandotte Convention that met and framed the Kansas State Constitution adopted in October of that year. Notably, he was influential in the decision to set Kansas' border west of the 23rd parallel. In 1860 he was the first State Senator from Riley County. And in 1861, he was appointed Receiver of Public Moneys" by President Lincoln at the Junction City Federal land office. At the onset of the Civil War, Houston was active in military maneuvers, particularly around Topeka and Lawrence, he helped to keep Confederate General Price out of Kansas thus maintaining its position as a Free State. During this period of tumultuous political upheaval, Houston built and maintained the large stone home that still sits on Anderson Avenue on the far western edge of the city.

Criterion C

In his memories of his father, Lawrence Nile Houston, son of Samuel Houston writes, "During the time when the above activities were engrossing him, my father still found time to replace the log house with the one built of the fine stone to be found in that section." Begun in 1857, the two-and-a-half story home was built on the site originally occupied by Houston's log cabin. Built of native limestone, and locally quarried, the house had a wooden porch running the length of its southern façade with large steps made of enormous eight by four foot limestone slabs. Detailed information regarding the Samuel Houston House was requested for a book on Kansas Pioneer Architecture sponsored by the Architectural and Industrial Journalism departments of Kansas State. In this early Kansas architectural history, the authors express their view that the Samuel Houston house was among the best preserved and, "of the most outstanding construction of any in early times." During the period of Kansas' settlement the state witnessed an influx of Euro-American settlers, many of whom

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Samuel Houston House
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effectively adapted old world masonry techniques and traditions to the dictates of local geography and materials. In the hands of these expert artisans, masonry work attained a level of excellence in which local stone (such as cobblestone in upstate New York, or limestone, as in Kansas) was skillfully adapted to create traditional structures. Although this use of local materials with now-lost masonry techniques does not constitute a coherent or theorized architectural movement, it was a trend, seen across the United States, and particularly in Kansas during the territorial period. The skills required to create a home like the Samuel Houston house have been largely lost - the finishing used on the façade-facing side of the stones was labor intensive and notably more worked-over than many contemporary and existing stone structures in the area. The man identified by Lawrence Houston as the builder of the Houston house was not an architect but a master mason. John Soupine, responsible for placing and finishing the stones. Soupine also worked at Fort Riley where several structures share the same articulated finish as the Houston House.

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Bibliography

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Connelly, William E. "A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans." Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1918. (on file at Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka).

Houston, Lawrence Nile. "Samuel Dexter Houston." Oklahoma City, OK., January 1942 (on file at Riley County Historical Society, Manhattan, KS).

Historic Preservation Services, LLC. "Cultural Resources Survey Wards 1 and 2, Manhattan, Kansas." City of Manhattan, Kansas, June 2004.

Jack, Lowell. *History of Manhattan, Riley County and Fort Riley*. Hawley Printing. Manhattan, Kansas, 2003. Pg. 2 and Passim.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Homes*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984.

Riley County Historical Society. "Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie." 1976.

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Riley Co., Kansas

Verbal Boundary Description

SE ¼, Section 10, Township 10, Range 7

Verbal Boundary Justification

This boundary includes a portion of the property historically associated with this resource.

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Samuel Houston House
Riley Co., Kansas

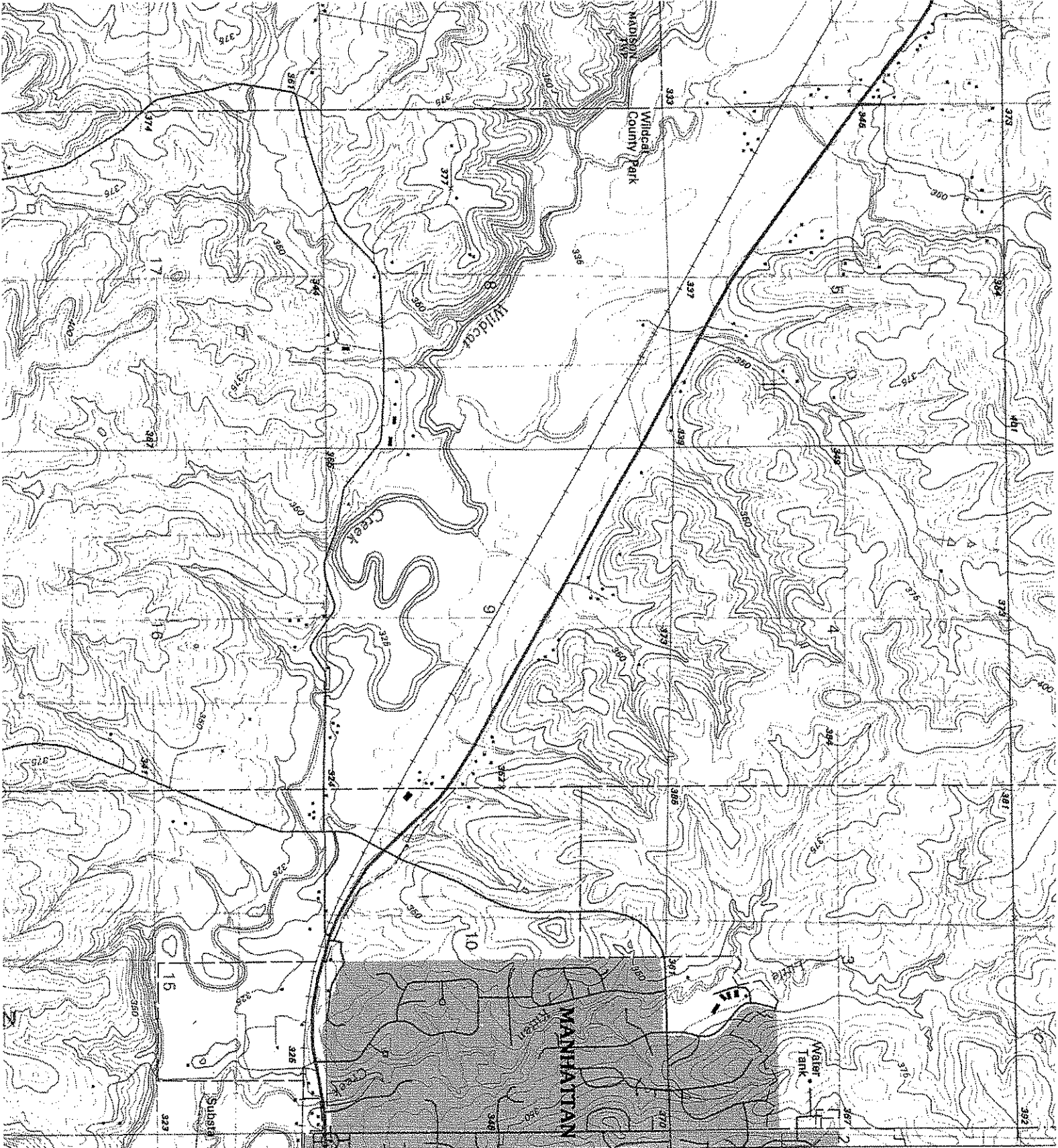
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Photographic Information

The following information is consistent for all photographs:

1. Samuel Houston House
2. Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas
3. Photographer: Kristen Lonard
4. September 8, 2006
5. Digital photographs on file at the Kansas State Historical Society

- Photo #1: South (front) Elevation, view from the South
- Photo #2: South (front) Elevation, front porch, view from the Southeast
- Photo #3: South (front) Elevation, Front Door, view from the South
- Photo #4: South (front) Elevation, Limestone Steps, view from the Southwest
- Photo #5: East Elevation, view from the East
- Photo #6: West Elevation, view from the West
- Photo #7: North (rear) Elevation, view from the North
- Photo #8: Interior, main entrance, view from the North
- Photo #9: Interior, first floor main hallway, view from the South
- Photo #10: Interior, Staircase to the second floor, view from the South
- Photo #11: Interior, first floor parlor and fireplace, view from the Southwest
- Photo #12: Interior, first floor music room and study, view from the Northeast
- Photo #13: Interior, first floor kitchen (in 2003 addition) and original back wall, view from the North
- Photo #14: Interior, second floor stone wall and window, view from the North
- Photo #15: Interior, second floor bedroom, view from the East
- Photo #16: Interior, third floor/attic, view from the East
- Photo #17: Interior, third floor/attic, close-up of original stone and wooden lintel, view from the West
- Photo #18: Interior, first floor original wood trim, view from the East
- Photo #19: Interior, first floor original window in study, view from the East
- Photo #20: Outbuilding, Non-contributing garage, view from the Northeast



T 9 S
T 10 S

4343

12 30"

4342

Samuel Houston
House
Manhattan Play Co.
Kaw 505

Zone 14

705 07DE

4340 450N

4340

4339